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Memorandum

TO: MTC Appointees to the Joint Policy Committee

DATE: January 6, 2012

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy

W. I.

RE: Joint Policy Committee Decision Framework

On December 21, MTC's Executive Committee met to discuss a staff recommendation to hire Will Travis to replace Ted Droettboom as the Joint Policy Committee (JPC) staff coordinator. The Committee unanimously approved moving forward with a contract with Mr. Travis on behalf of the JPC member agencies, subject to (a) negotiation of the contract price, and (b) refinement of the scope of work.

In the course of the Committee's discussion, it was clear that Commissioners remain concerned about the role the JPC should play in policy development and that these concerns need to be addressed in order to provide clear direction to the staff coordinator and Executive Directors of the four member agencies. The Committee also raised questions about the JPC's decision making process, which in the opinion of some, now suffers for lack of a clear procedure to ensure that the JPC reviews draft agency plans early in the process and, therefore, has a real opportunity to influence their content.

The Committee agreed that the five MTC appointees to the JPC should meet before the next JPC meeting on January 20 to agree on an approach to advocate at that meeting.

Over the past several years, the JPC has discussed a range of possible roles, including:

1. Coordinate the development of each agency's key planning documents.
2. Identify and address conflicts and opportunities to integrate the four agencies' planning activities.
3. Tackle regional planning issues that do not fall clearly within the authority of any one of the JPC agencies but are nonetheless important to address (e.g., Economic Development Strategy).

Attached you will find two documents from 2003 and 2005 that provide background for your discussion at your meeting on January 13.

Ann Flemer

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